Bandipur kidnapping case

1580. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been discussions between the Karnataka Government, Tamil Nadu Government and the Central Government since the Bandipur Kidnapping in the month of October, 1997;

(b) whether Government of these States have sought any assistance from the Central Government to capture the forest brigade of Veerapan involved in these kidnappings; and

(c) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) A meeting was convened in the Ministry of Home Affairs on 22 October, 1997 in which senior officials of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu took part. It was decided in this meeting that Tamil Nadu Police and Karnataka Police should have a joint command and upgrade intelligence collection before launching operations to nob Veerappan. Trained Commandos of the Central Police Force could then be deputed, as and when necessary, to assist the joint command of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka in the operation..

Presidential form of Government

1581. SHRI DEBABARATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had made a public statement that the country should switch over to Presidential form of Government;

(b) whether the opinion expressed represents the official stand of the BJP-led Government at the Centre;

(c) if not, whether his statement has the approval of the Prime Minister; and

(d) if answer to part (c) above be in the negative, whether Prime Minister has impressed upon him not to make policy statements in public without due authorisation from all the important constituents/units of BJP-led Government?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) In the context of the National Agenda for Governance, which provides, inter alia, that a Commission will be appointed to review the Constitution of India in the light of the experience of the past 50 years, it was mentioned that the Commission, while retaining such basic features of the Constitution as democracy, would be free to assess the relative merits and demerits of the Presidential form of Government vis-a-vis the Parliamentary form of Government.

Fake currency notes

1582. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the wide circulation of fake currency notes in the market throughout the country of a long time;

(b) whether Government have assessed the gravity of the poor people affected by such cheating at a very large scale;

(c) if so, the facts in detail; and

(d) the measures taken or being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) The circulation of fake currency notes has been reported, from time to time, from the border districts of Punjab, Gujarat, UP and Bihar, etc. According to information received from the Reserve Bank of India, the value of fake currency notes detected by the Reserve Bank of India and seized by the police during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 was Rs. 14,94,996. The value of fake currency notes in circulation cannot be ascertained by any degree of certainty.

"Public Order" and "Police" being State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, the registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime, including crimes relating to the counterfeiting of currency